1578/2022

A Solemn ACT of

CONFESSION AND INTERCESSION,

SUITED

To the Plan of thoſe LONDON Divines, who requeſted all the well diſpoſed Chriſtians, (Laity as well as Clergy) throughout the Nation, to join with them in a ſolemn Act of Humilation, for One Hour every Lord's Day Evening; on aceount of their own Sins, and the Sins of this Nation, during thoſe calammitous Times, *viz.* in the Year 1757. and now re-printed as equally ſuitable to the preſent.

By the late Rev. Mr. *BASSET*,
Arch Deacon of *Stow*.

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This Form of PRAYER is recommended by feveral eminent CLERGYMEN in this Neighbourhood.

A Solemn Act of Confeſſion, &c.

O Bleſſed Lord —— let the Words of my Mouth, and the Meditations of my Heart, be at *this* time acceptable in thy Sight! —— Let my Prayer be ſet forth in thy Sight as the Incenſe, ——and let this (now) lifting up of my hands be a ſweet-ſmelling Sacrifice!

Lord, —— hear my Prayer; and let my crying come unto thee!

O moſt great, and glorious, God, —— juſt and terrible in thy Judgments to all obſtinate and rebellious Sinners, but of infinite Mercy to *ſuch* as with *true* Sorrow, and hearty *Repentance*, turn unto thee, —— Look down, I beſeech thee, with Mercy and Compaſſion upon *Me* now preſenting myſelf before thee —— owning that I am not worthy ſo much as to lift up my *Eyes* to the throne of thy glorious Majeſty!

O Lord! — my Sins are ſo many, and ſo great, —— that it is owing to thy *Mercy alone* that I am not, *long ſince*, conſumed —— but have, yet, *another* opportunity of humbling myſelf before thee, and begging Mercy for my poor Soul, which has ſo *grievouſly* ſinned againſt thee!

I confeſs, O Lord, what thou knoweſt *already*! —— But I confeſs it — to manifeſt thy

Juſtice,

Juſtice, and to glorify thy *Mercy*, who has ſpared me ſo long! —— I confeſs, and acknowledge, O Lord, that I brought a *deprav'd, and ſinful*, Nature into the World with me, from whence all my *actual* Tranſgreſſions have flow'd, and proceeded, —— as impure Streams from a *polluted* Fountain! —— O Bleſſed God — I beſeech thee (for thy dear Son *Jeſus Chriſt's* ſake) to humble me (and that greatly!) for this my *Original* Corruption! —— Lord, let me ſee it in *the ſtrongeſt Light*; and never give me Reſt, and Peace, —— till I, *from my Soul*, cry out for, and rely upon, the *unſinning Obedience* of my dear Redeemer *Jeſus*, and the aſſiſtance of *his Spirit*, for deliverance from it! And grant that this precious Balm may be my *Cure*, and reſtore me *again to the Image of God!*

O Lord, —— I have ſinned againſt thee by actual, and wilful, Sins! —— I have left *undone* thoſe things which I *ought* to have done, — and I have done thoſe things which I ought not to have done! —— Particulary — [here mention all the Sins which (after a *ſtrict* Examination) you can recollect yourſelf to have been guilty of your whole Life.]

O —— Bleſſed Lord —— I can give but a wretched account of myſelf! —— I cannot reckon (I fear) a ten thouſanth part of my Offences! —— "Lord ſave, —— or elſe I "periſh!" — My Crimes are *intolerable*, — and my Imperfections *ſhameful!* and my Omiſſions *innumerable!* —— O, —— what ſhall I ſay unto thee, —— or what ſhall I do, O thou preſerver of Men? —— I am ſo *vile* that I cannot expreſs it! — and much more abominable muſt *I needs* be in thy ſight —— O I have ſinned, ——

I have

I have ſinned! —— My Sins are grown *ſhameful*, and aggravated to Amazement! Lord — I can ſay *no more!* ——— I am aſhamed, ——— I am confounded, in thy Preſence!

But *yet*, O God ——— thou art "*the Healer* "of our Breaches", and the lifter up of our Head; ——— and I muſt not (I dare not!) deſpair! ——— Thou haſt "*open'd a Fountain* for "Sin, and for uncleanneſs!" and therefore, I am *ſure* thou *delighteſt* not in the Death of a Sinner! ——— And though my Sins are great, and numberleſs (even as "numberleſs as the "Sand which is upon the Sea Shore") ——— yet they are infinitely leſs than thy *Mercies* — which thou haſt revealed to all *penitent, and returning*, Sinners, in *Jeſus Chriſt!*

For *his* ſake, therefore, be pleas'd to look down into the Duſt, and lift up a Sinner (a poor, helpleſs Sinner) from the Dunghill! —— For Chriſt's ſake ——— let me not periſh in my *Folly*, nor be *conſum'd* in thy heavy *Diſpleaſure*! — for *Chriſt's* ſake — give me time, and ſpace, to repent! —— and give me, alſo, *Power*, by the aſſiſtance of thy bleſſed *Spirit!* — Support me with an Holy Hope; ——— confirm me with an operative, and lively, Faith ——— and kindle a bright, and burning, *Charity* in my Soul! Give me patience in ſuffering; --- ſeverity in judging and condemning my *Sins!* — That, judging *Myſelf*, I may not be condemn'd by *Thee!* ---- that, mourning for my Sins, I may rejoice in thy Pardon; — that, mortifying my Sin, I may live in *Righteouſneſs*, —— that, denying *my own* will, I may always endeavour to perform *thine* —— and, by the aſſiſtance of thy *bleſſed Spirit*, I may overcome all *carnal and Spiritual*

Wick-

Wickedneſs; ——— and may walk in thy *Light*, and delight in thy *Service* —— may *perfect* my Obedience, —— be totally deliver'd as well from the *Power* as from the *Puniſhment*, of Sin; and ſo ——— be, *for ever*, preſerv'd from thy *Wrath*; and, at laſt, — paſs on from a certain *Expectation*, to an actual *Enjoyment* of the Glories of thy Kingdom; ——— through Jeſus Chriſt, my bleſſed Lord and Saviour! Amen!

(2) And now, O Lord, that I have been humbling myſelf before thee, and confeſſing my *own* Sins, as a *private and particular* Perſon, ---- I think myſelf, in Humility and Duty, bound (after the Example of thy Servant Daniel) to look upon myſelf in a ſtill *further* ſinful light, ———, *viz.* as an inhabitant of a wicked, and rebellious, *Nation*; and ſo (like Daniel) to confeſs, likewiſe, the Sins of my people. ——— And, oh, ——— that my Supplications, and the Supplications of all thoſe who, at this appointed Hour, have agreed ſolemnly to ſet themſelves to ſeek thy Face, and to confeſs their *own* Sins, and the Sins of the People of this Land, — oh — that they may meet with *the ſame gracious* acceptance with thee that Daniel did! — O, that "the Com-"mandment may come forth at the beginning "of our Supplications, to finiſh our Tranſgreſ-"ſions, and to make an end of our Sins, and to "make reconciliation for our Iniquities" ——— that thou mayeſt, once more, be our *God*, and *We* thy People.

Let thy merciful Ears, O God, be therefore open unto our *Prayers*, and *ſpare* all thoſe who *confeſs* their Sins unto thee; — that they, whoſe Conſciencies by Sin are accuſed, — by thy merciful Pardon may be abſolved; — through *Jeſus Chriſt our Lord*.

"O Lord

" O Lord the great and dreadful God, —— " keeping the *Covenant and Mercy* to them that " love him, and to them that keep his Command- " ments, — We have ſinned, — we have ſinned, " O Lord, — and have committed *Iniquity*, — " and have done *wickedly*, — and have rebelled; — " even by departing from thy Precepts, and " from thy Judgments! neither have we " hearken'd to thy Servants the Prophets," — nor to thy Son *Jeſus Chriſt*, nor to his *Apoſtles*, who (in thy Holy Word) " have ſpoken to our " *Fathers*, and to the People of this Land!" O " Lord — Righteouſneſs belongeth unto *Thee*, but unto *Us Confuſion of Face*, as at *this* Day; — " to our Kings, — to our *Princes*, — to our " *Fathers*, — and to *Us ourſelves*, becauſe of the " *Treſpaſſes* which we have treſpaſſed againſt " thee!" — Yea, we have all, (as *one Man*,) " tranſgreſſed againſt thee, by departing from " thee, and not obeying thy voice, — [therefore, " the Curſe is pour'd upon us, and thou haſt " confirmed the Words which thou ſpake againſt " us! — Thou haſt brought upon us many, and " ſore, Evils; — yet made we not our *Prayer* " before thee, that we might turn from our " *Iniquity*, and underſtand thy Truth."]

But O bleſſed Lord, —— to *Thee* " belong " Mercies and Forgiveneſſes — tho' we have " rebelled againſt thee! And, Lord, — we " confeſs our Wickedneſs, and are *ſorry* for our " ſins! — We beſeech thee, therefore according " to all thy Righteouſneſs, and thy gracious " *Promiſes*, — and for the ſake of thy dear Son " *Jeſus Chriſt!* —— to let thine anger, and thy " fury *be turned away* from us! ——— Incline " thine Ear O Lord, and *hear*; —— open thine

" Eyes,

" Eyes, O Lord, and ſee; and behold our " Miſeries, and our Deſolation! —— For we " do not preſent our Supplications before thee " truſting in our *own Righteouſneſs*, but in thy " manifold and great *Mercies!*" " We are not " worthy, O Lord, of *the leaſt* of all thy Mercies, " and of *the Truth*, which thou haſt ſhewed," of old time, " to us thy Servants"! —— " But " thou art *the ſame* Lord whoſe property is " always to have Mercy"! " Have *Mercy* upon " us, therefore, —— have *Mercy* upon us, moſt " merciful Father! For thy dear Son our Lord " *Jeſus Chriſt's ſake*, forgive us all that his paſt; " and grant that we may, ever hereafter, ſerve " thee *in newneſs of Life*; to the Honour and " Glory of thy Name"! —— And " let a conſide- " ration of our own ſinfulneſs, and unworthineſs, " and of thy manifold Warnings to us, and Long " ſufferings towards us, *increaſe* in us *true Repent-* " *tance*, that Iniquity may not be our Ruin! — " And increaſe in us, alſo, (more and more) a " lively *Faith and Love*, —— make us fruitful in " all Holy *Obedience*; — that thou mayeſt, *ſtill*, " continue thy *Favour*, together with the *Light* of " thy *Goſpel, to Us and our Poſterity!* —— And this " we beg for thy dear Son *Jeſus Chriſt's* ſake, — " our only Mediator, and Advocate!

(3) And, now, that I have confeſſed to thee my *own* Sins, and the Sins of my People, —— I deſire, further, —— to offer up my Prayers in behalf of *all Mankind!* —— that both *Jew and Gentile*, may believe in, and glorify, thee, — the only *true* God, and *Jeſus Chriſt* whom thou haſt ſent!

Protect, and proſper, thy Holy Catholick Church! —— preſerve it pure in Doctrine and Wor-

Worſhip! — Root out of it whatſoever is a *Scandal* to thy moſt Holy Religion! — Unite its profeſſors; and enlarge its Borders! Eſpecially, — bleſs *that* part of it in *theſe* Nations to which I belong! And, as (in thy infinite Mercy) thou haſt been pleas'd to vouchſafe us abundant Illuminations of thy Goſpel, — ſo grant that, by our Sins, we may not extinguiſh the Light of it, nor cauſe our "Candleſtick to be remov'd"!

Inflame the Miniſters and Stewards of thy Myſteries, with a lively and burning Zeal, for the Converſion of Souls! — Impreſs it *deeply upon* them — that "*Curſed* is *He* that doeth the Work "of the Lord deceitfully"! — And be pleaſed, O Lord to aſſiſt *them* with thy *Bleſſed Spirit:* —— and to direct *them* to the uſe of *ſuch* Means — as may be effectual to bring about and accompliſh, that deſirable, and happy, End!

Be pleas'd likewiſe, O Lord, to bleſs all thoſe our Diſſenting Brethren (of what denomination *ſoever* they be) "who love the Lord Jeſus Chriſt "in Sincerity"! —— Reconſile our Hearts to *Them*, —— and theirs to *Us*! Grant that there may be an End of thoſe Animoſites, and bitter diſputes, which have *ſo long*, and ſo ſadly, diſturbed the *Peace*, and hinder'd the *Union of Proteſtants!* And grant, alſo, —— that there may be only this *One* (*holy*) Contention between us, *viz*, whether the Miniſters *out* of the eſtabliſh'd Church, or thoſe that are *in it*, ſhall labour *moſt* for the Glory of our common Maſter, —— and for the Salvation of *thoſe* Souls committed to *their* Care, —— and for whom he ſhed his *Blood!*

Bleſs, likewiſe, our Sovereign Lord, *King George*, and all his Royal Family! — Make them pure, and Holy, in their own Lives; — raiſe up

an active, and vigorous Spirit in their Hearts for the puniſhing, and rooting out, of Wickedneſs, and Vice, — and for the enouragement, and maintenance, of *true* Religion, amongſt us!

And be pleas'd, O Lord, to give the *Spirit* of Wiſdom to all his Counſellors; and to all the *Magiſtrates* (of all ranks) throughout the Nation; — that they may be enabled *faithfully* to diſcharge that *great* Truſt which is repoſed in them, — to thy Honour, and the Benefit, and Advantage, of his Majeſty and the Nation!

Be pleas'd, likewiſe, to go forth with our *Fleets and Armies!* Bleſs all their Endeavours againſt our Enemies, — and give them *Succeſs* in the Day of Battle!

Have Mercy upon all the afflicted Members of thy Church, —— whether in *Mind*, — *Body*, — or Eſtate! ——— Pity their Condition, —— good Lord, pity it; — and lay no *more* upon them than they are *able* to bear, — but give them *Deliverance* in thy good *appointed* Time, if it be thy Bleſſed Will! —— Have compaſſion on all *that* are in *Error*, — but ſincerely *ſeek the Truth!* on *all*, that are engag'd in *ſinful* Courſes, and led Captive by their Luſts; —— that they may have Grace, and Strength, to break their Bonds; — and *all* thoſe — who never pray for themſelves! — Open their Eyes, O Lord, — and break their ſtony Hearts! Awaken *them* (tho' it be even with *Thunder*) to a *ſenſible feeling* of their ſad Condition; — and (for thy mercy's ſake) — ſuffer them *no longer* to " ſit in Darkneſs, and in the ſhadow " of Death! — but may ſee *(before it be too late)* " the Danger, and Madneſs, of thus living " without *God* in the World!"

(4) Finally, O Lord —— I deſire to return unto

unto thee my *unfeigned Praiſes, and Thankſgiving*, — for the manifold expreſſions of thy goodneſs, and loving kindneſs, to *me* and to *all Mankind!* — I bleſs thee for my *Creation* —— *Preſervation*, — and *all* the Bleſſings of *this* Life ; — and for all the Helps, and Advantages, which thou haſt vouchſafed me for the obtaining of a better! — But, above all, — for thy aſtoniſhing Love to Mankind in *Jeſus Chriſt!* ——— for all that he hath done, and *ſuffer'd* for us, --- and continues, *ſtill*, to do for us by his powerful *Interceſſion* at thy Right Hand! --- Humbly beſeeching thee --- that I, thy Servant, (together with all thoſe who have liv'd, and died in the Faith of his Holy *Name*) may follow the example of his *Heavenly Life!* --- that, finally, with *Them*, I may be made Partaker of the Merits of his Obedience, and Death, in a joyful *Reſurrection* to Life everlaſting!

All theſe Confeſſions, --- Prayers, --- Supplications, --- Interceſſions, - - and Thankſgivings, I humbly put up to the Throne of *Grace* --- in the Name, and Words, of our Lord and Saviour *Jeſus Chriſt!* who, in compaſſion to our *Infirmities*, —— has taught us to pray —— ſaying

Our Father, &c. Amen!

N. B. It may not be improper to remind every Chriſtian, --- that, before he makes uſe of this Prayer, he ought to ſet apart *half an Hour*, for *Self-Examination*.

F I N I S.

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